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BLACKLASH!
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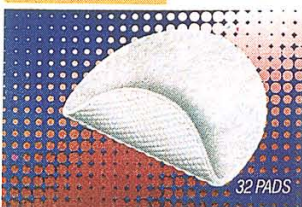
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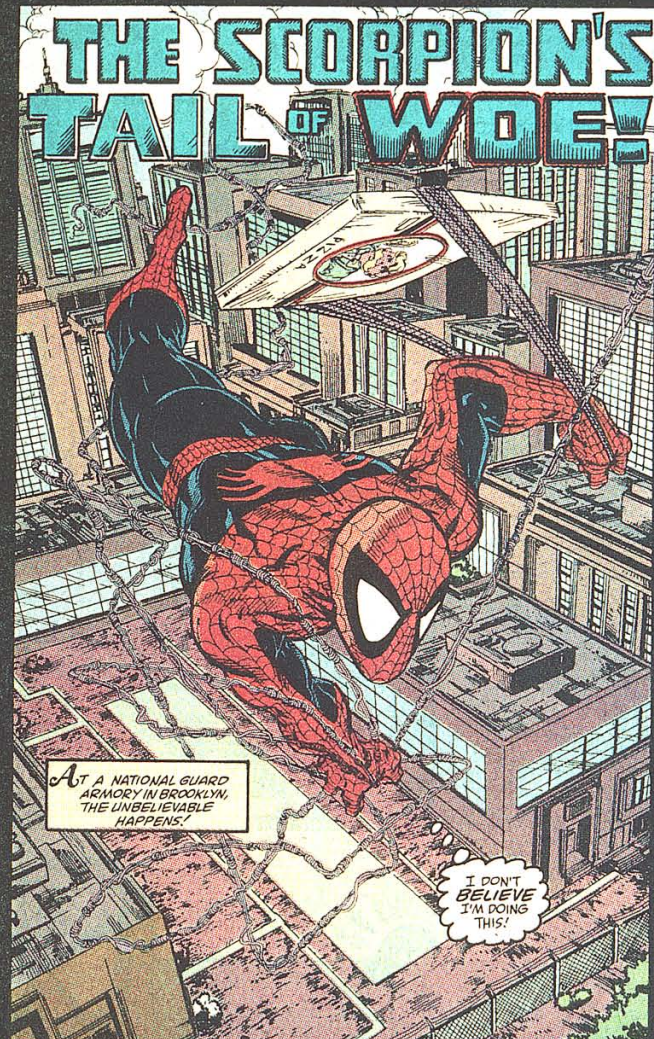
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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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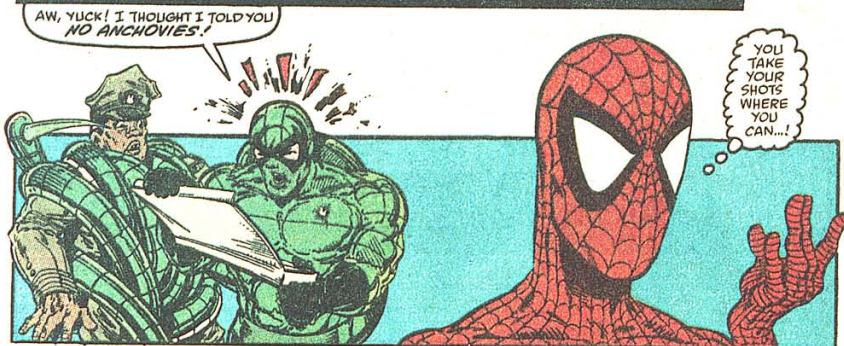
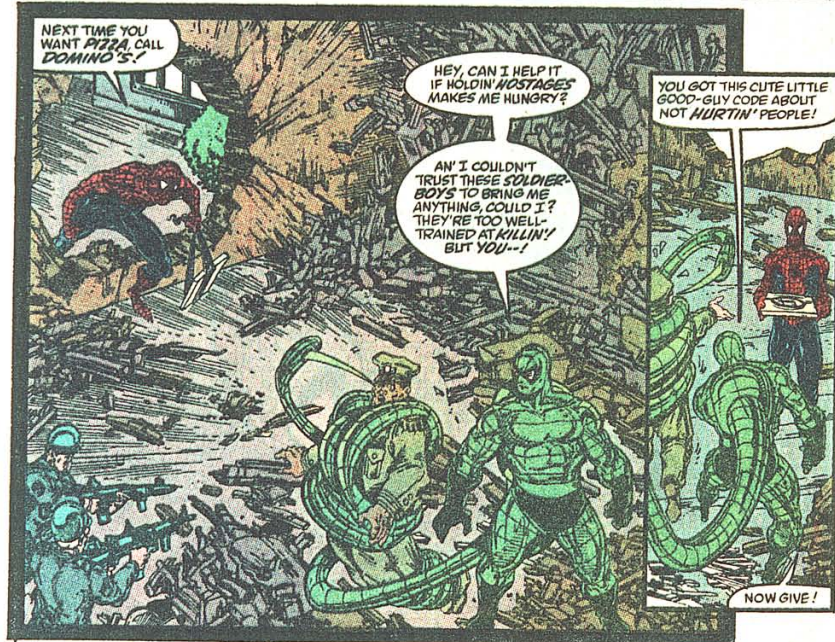
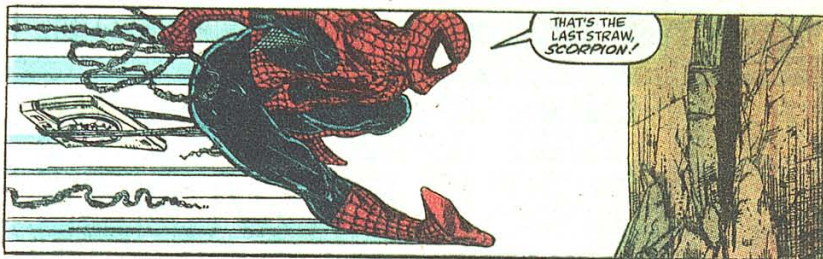


At a NATIONAL GUARD
ARMORY IN BROOKLYN,
THE UNBELIEVABLE
HAPPENS!

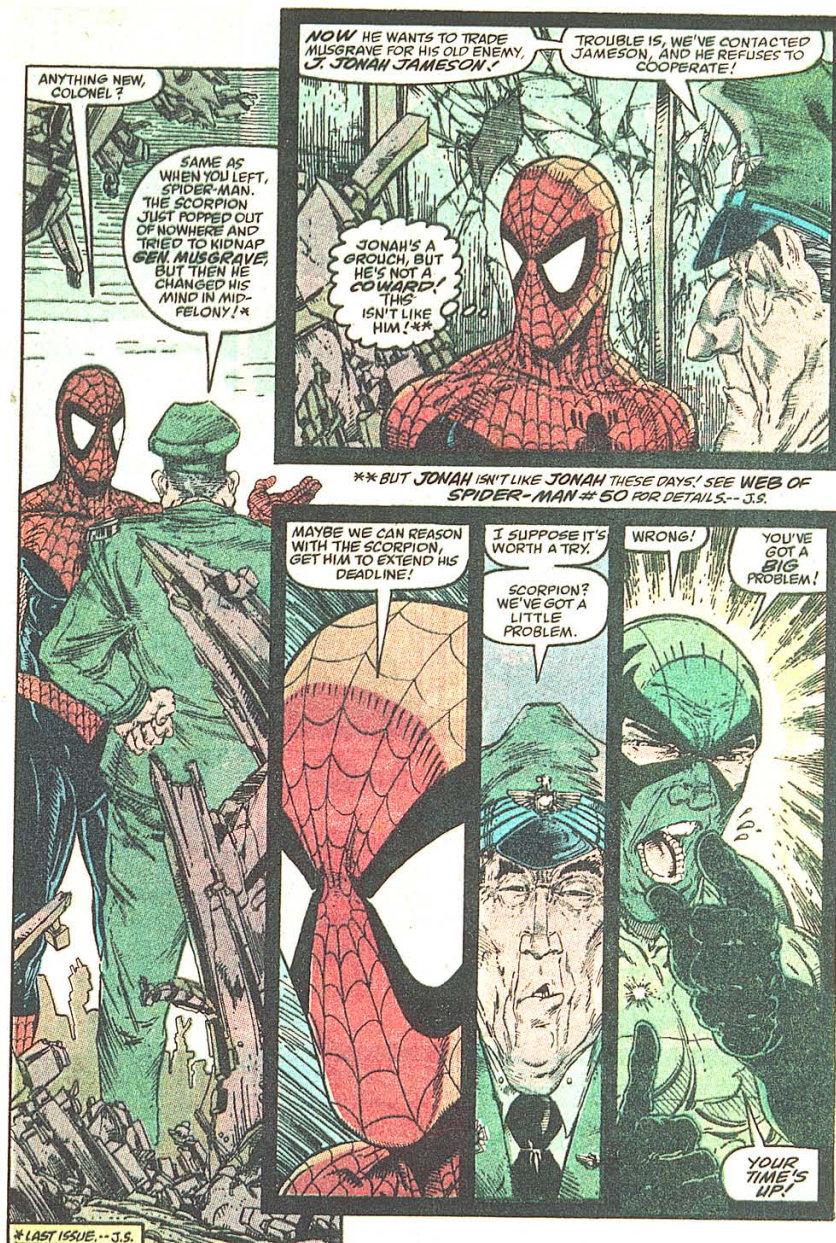
I DON'T
BELIEVE
I'M DOING
THIS!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® Vol. 1, No. 319, Early September, 1989. (ISSN 0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, James E. Gaion, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hosson, Group Vice President. PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT FOR TWENTY-THREE, JULY AND AUGUST. Copyright © 1989 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate \$12.00 for 12 issues. Canada and foreign, \$14.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof), are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

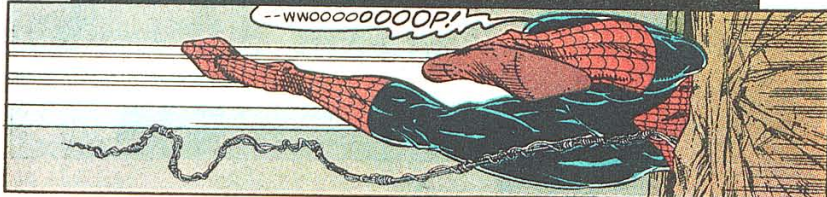
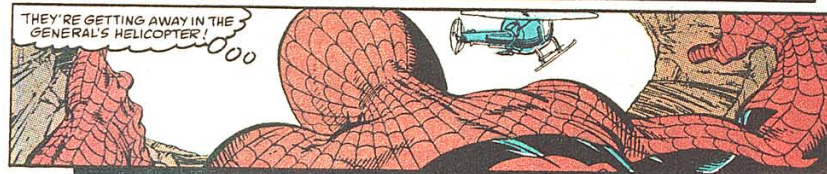
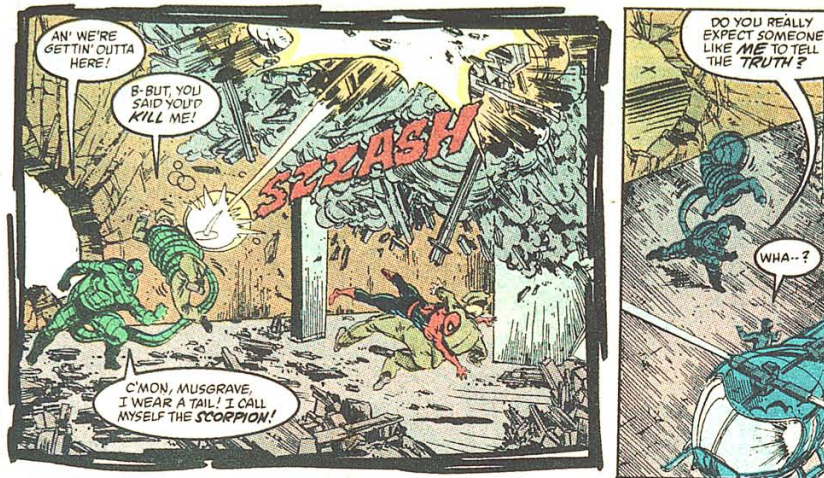
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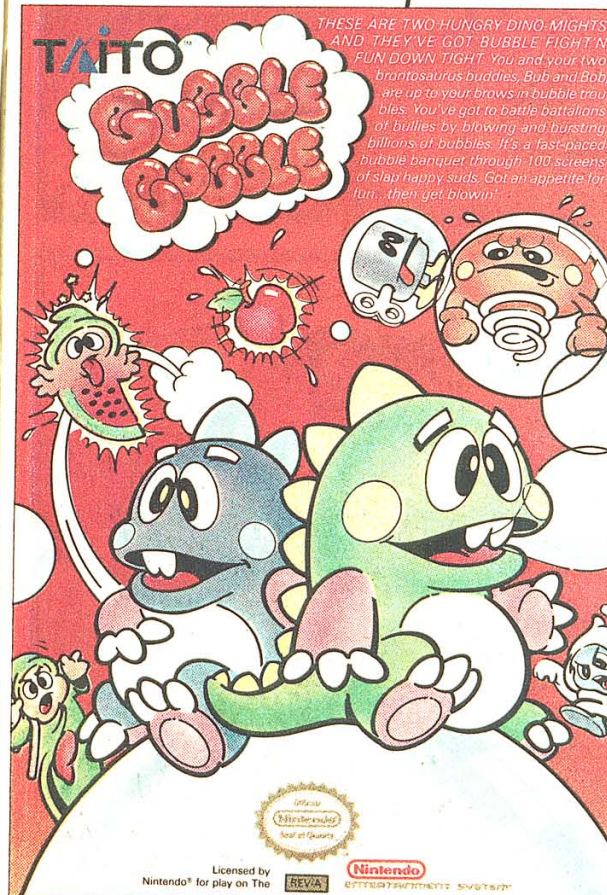


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BUBBLE BOBBLE IS DINO-MIGHT!

(FOR YOUR NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM.)*



These are two hungry dino-mights and they've got bubble fight'n fun down tight.

Bubble Bobble™ is totally addictive action. Computer Entertainer Magazine says "it's impossible to resist...you want to play over and over again." Bubble Bobble™ has been Europe's #1 game for over 3 months. You'll scramble through 100 screens of laughs as your brontosaurus buddies, Bub and Bob, blow you away with endless action. If you're lookin' for fun, these dudes are the ones.

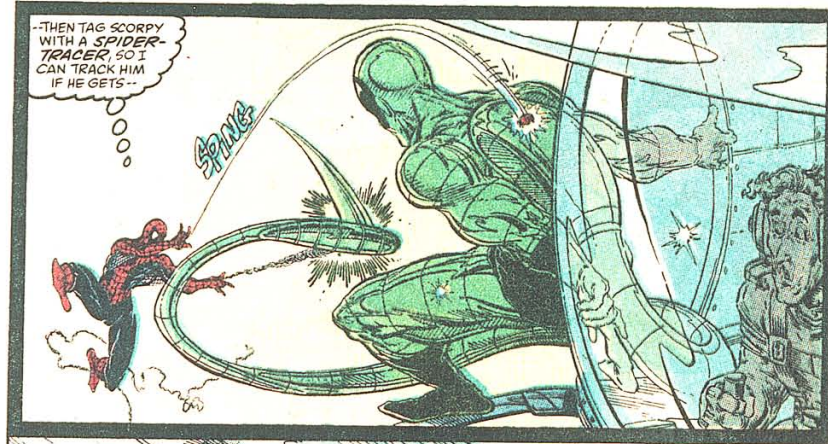
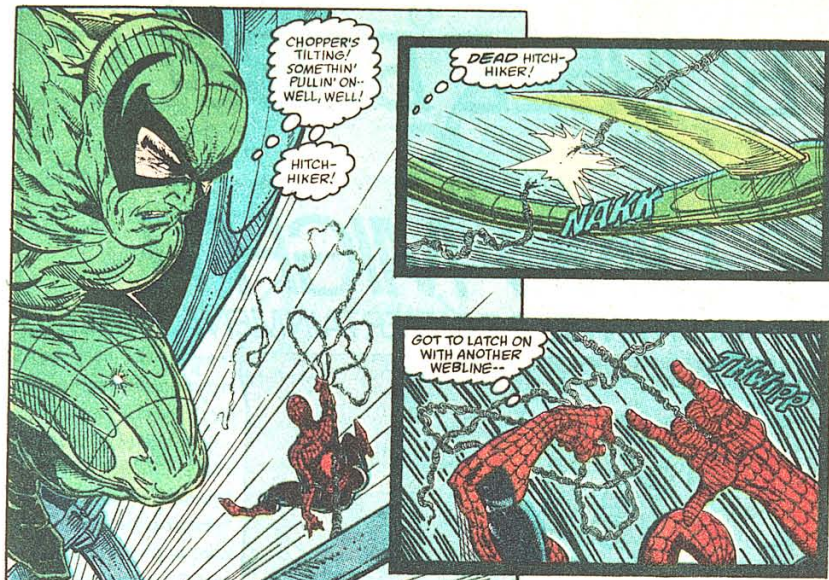
For more arcade quality fun at home, grab Taito's other action packed hits for the Nintendo Entertainment System.® Operation Wolf,® the awesome prisoner rescue mission and the world's number 1 arcade game. Renegade,™ the fast paced street-style Karate brawl. And coming soon, Sky Shark,® the arcade's meanest air battle.

TAITO
THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN.™

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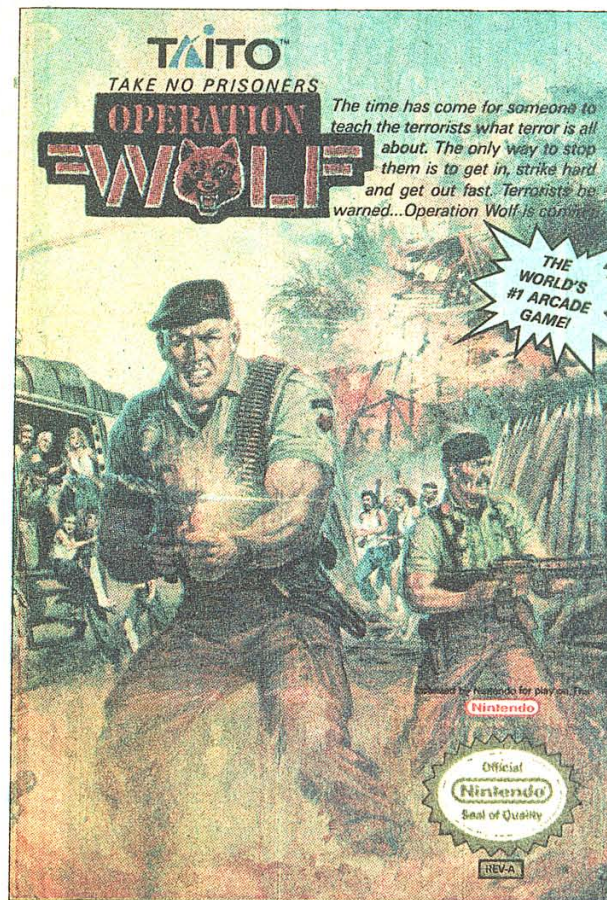
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6

TAKE NO PRISONERS.

OPERATION WOLF® FOR YOUR NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM®

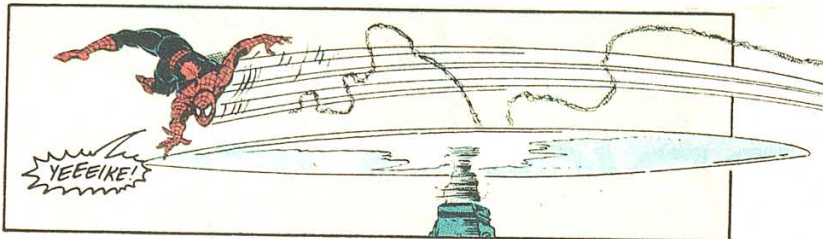


Now you can thrill to the world's best arcade game right on your Nintendo Entertainment System®. Operation Wolf® takes you on a prisoner rescue mission you'll never forget. Mind-blowing arcade quality graphics put you behind enemy lines where you must destroy the terrorists and save helpless prisoners. One play and you'll know why it's the world's number 1 arcade game. Operation Wolf® uses Nintendo Zapper® or standard controller.

For more arcade quality fun at home, grab Taito's other action packed hits for the Nintendo Entertainment System®: Renegade™, the fast paced street-style Karate brawl. Bubble Bobble™, the totally addictive dinosaur delight. And coming soon, Sky Shark®, the arcade's meanest, most explosive high-flying World War II air battle.

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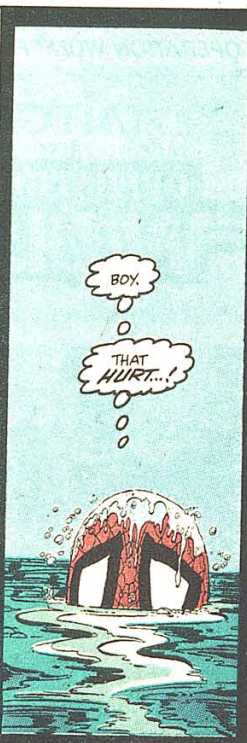
YEEHAIKE!



TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE BRIDGE TO REACH IT WITH WEB-BING!

SO, ASSUMING I DON'T GET BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE PARAKEET IN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS...

-- I'D BETTER STRAIGHTEN OUT AND TRY TO HIT CLEAN!



BOY...
THAT HURT...

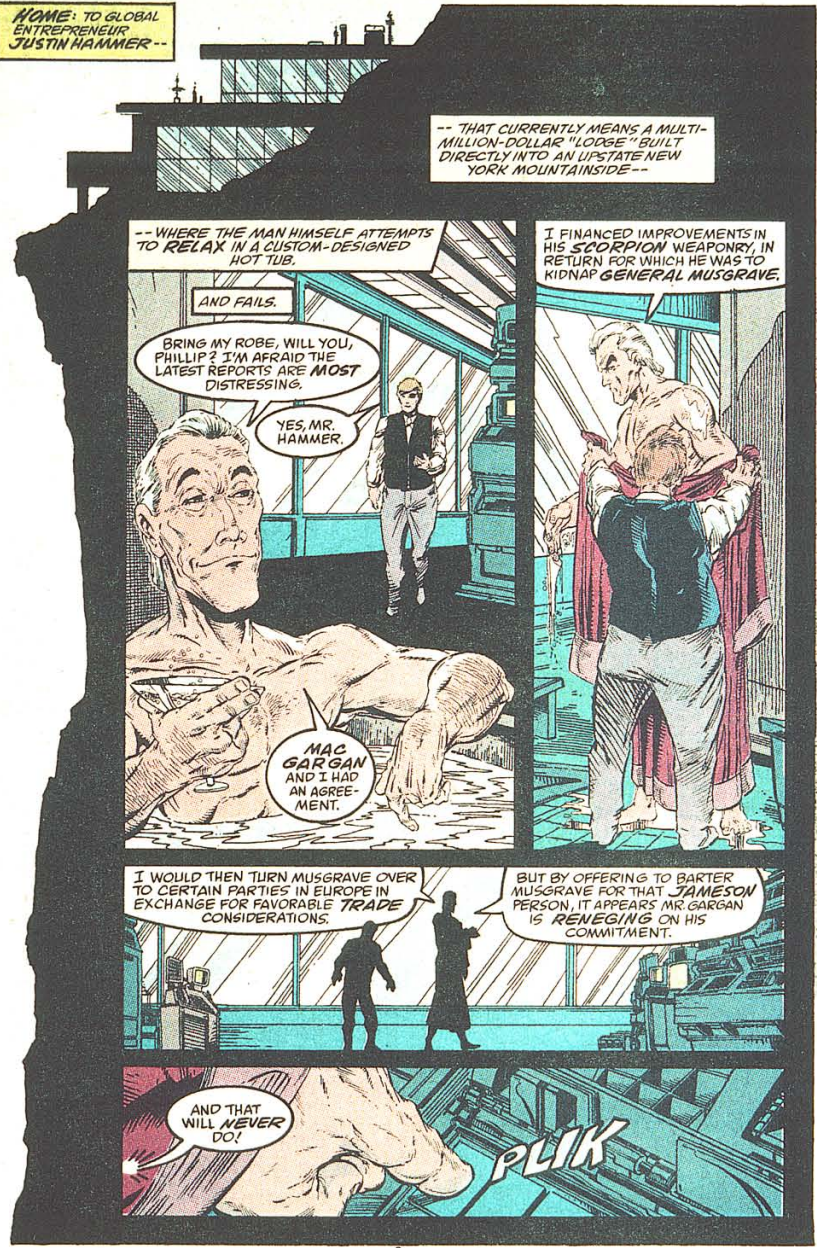


FEEL LIKE A 5'10" MAN CRAMMED INTO A 4'10" BODY!

I SHOULD PROBABLY TRY TO FIND THE SCORPION, BUT RIGHT NOW...

... I JUST WANT TO GO HOME!

HOME: TO GLOBAL ENTREPRENEUR JUSTIN HAMMER--



-- THAT CURRENTLY MEANS A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR "LOOSE" BUILT DIRECTLY INTO AN UPGRADE NEW YORK MOUNTAINSIDE--

-- WHERE THE MAN HIMSELF ATTEMPTS TO RELAX IN A CUSTOM-DESIGNED HOT TUB.

AND FAILS.

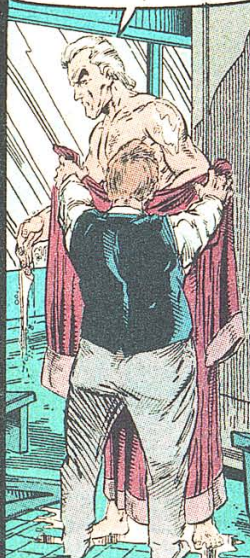
BRING MY ROBE, WILL YOU, PHILLIP? I'M AFRAID THE LATEST REPORTS ARE MOST DISTRESSING.

YES, MR. HAMMER.



MAC GARGAN AND I HAD AN AGREEMENT.

I FINANCED IMPROVEMENTS IN HIS SCORPION WEAPONRY, IN RETURN FOR WHICH HE WAS TO KIDNAP GENERAL MUSGRAVE.



I WOULD THEN TURN MUSGRAVE OVER TO CERTAIN PARTIES IN EUROPE IN EXCHANGE FOR FAVORABLE TRADE CONSIDERATIONS.

BUT BY OFFERING TO BARTER MUSGRAVE FOR THAT JAMESON PERSON, IT APPEARS MR. GARGAN IS RENEGING ON HIS COMMITMENT.



AND THAT WILL NEVER DO!

PLIK



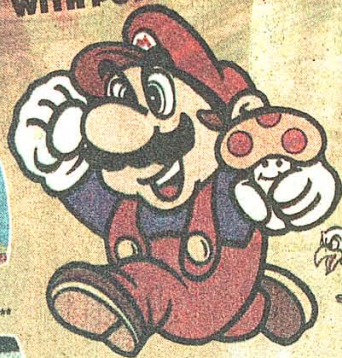
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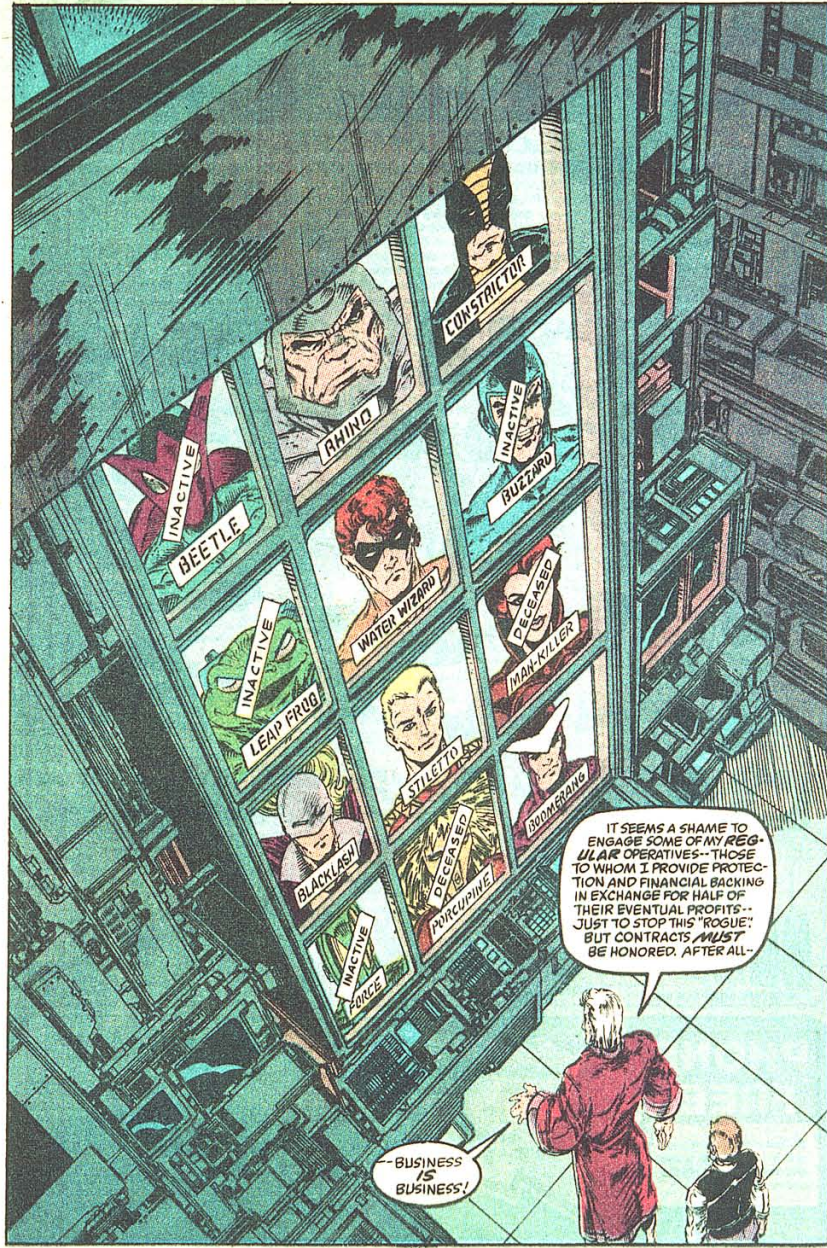
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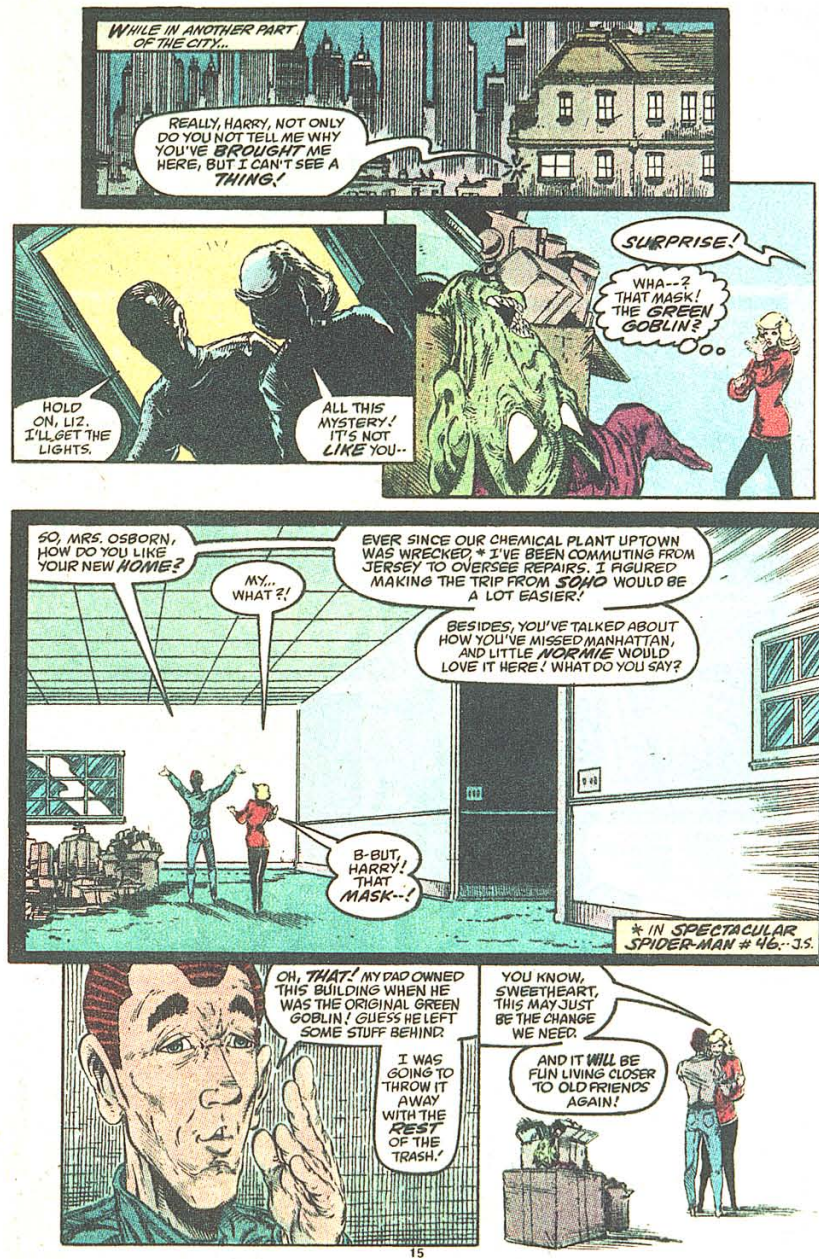


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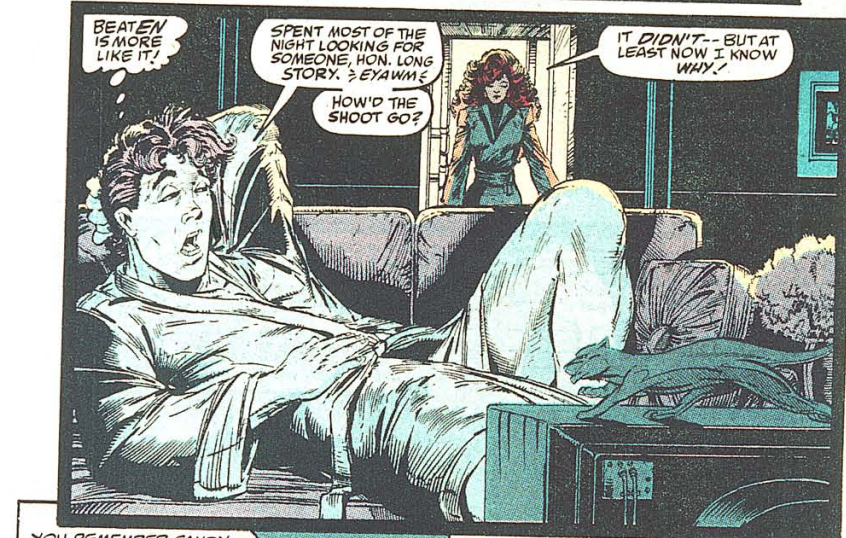


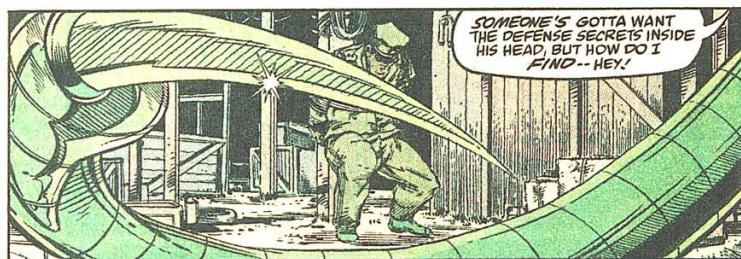
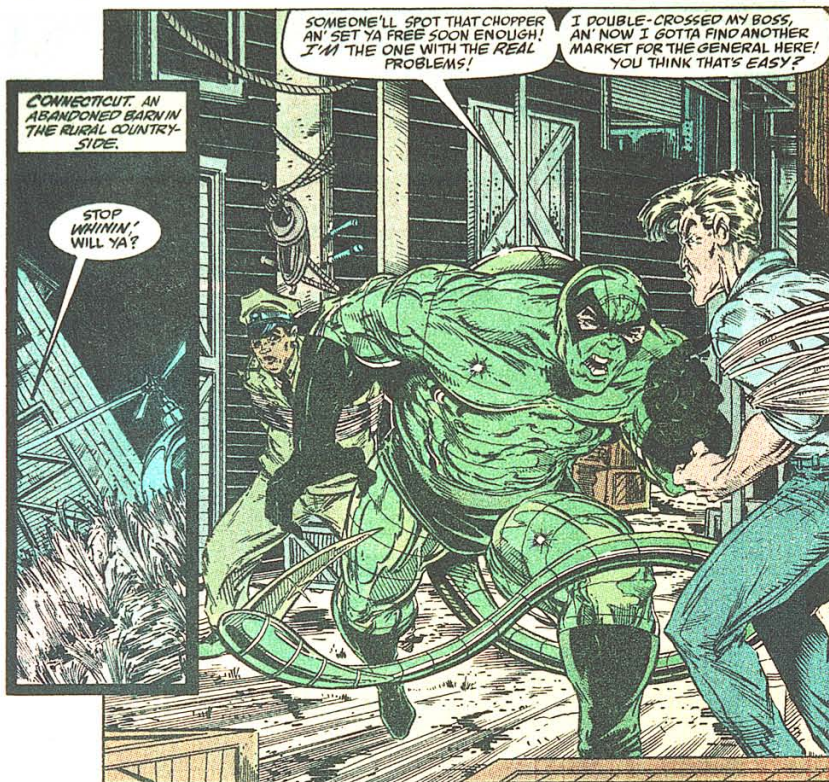


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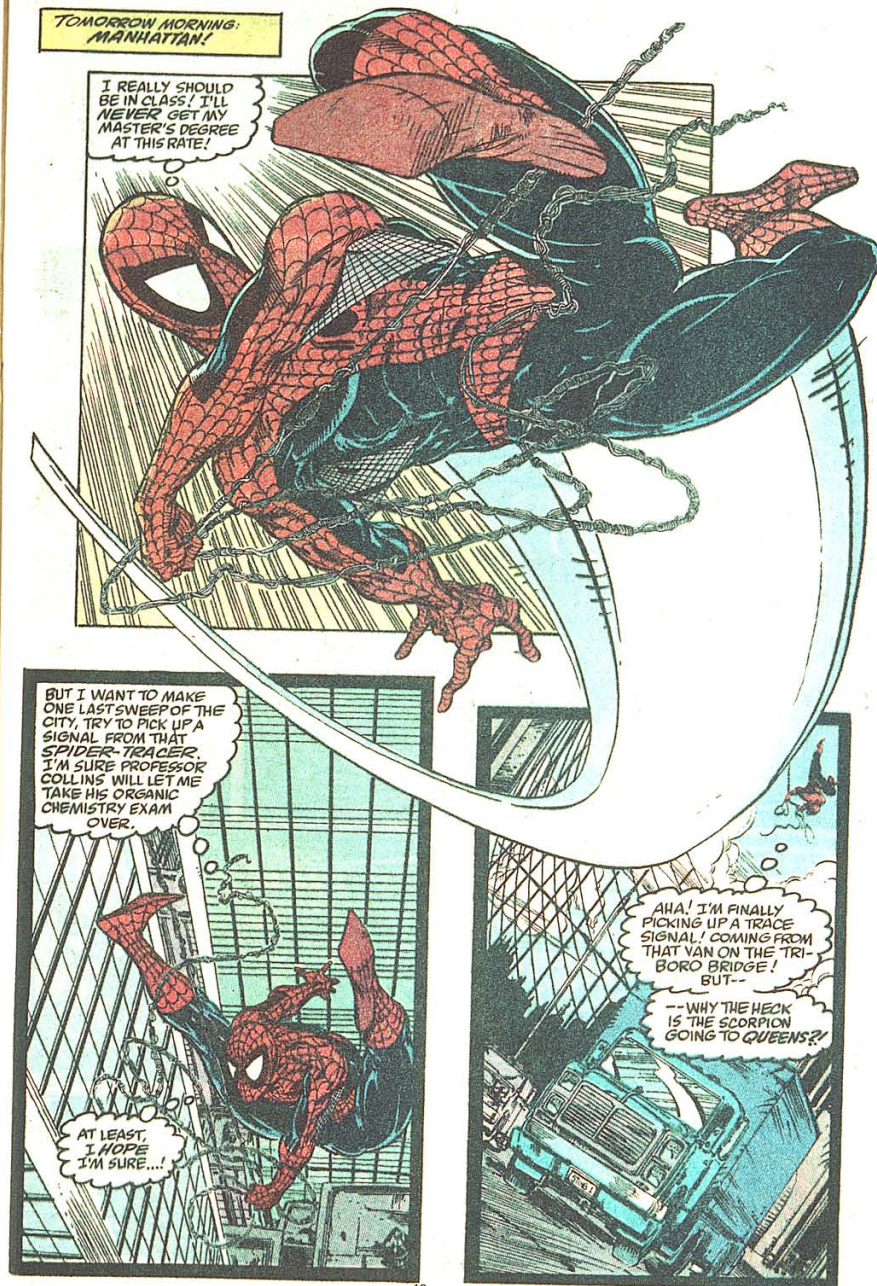


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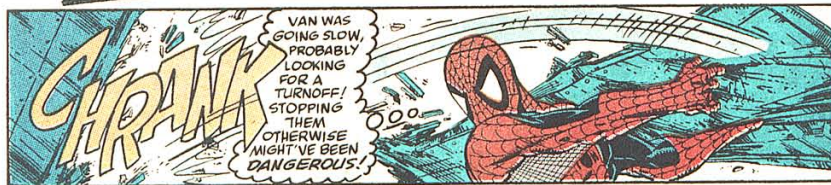
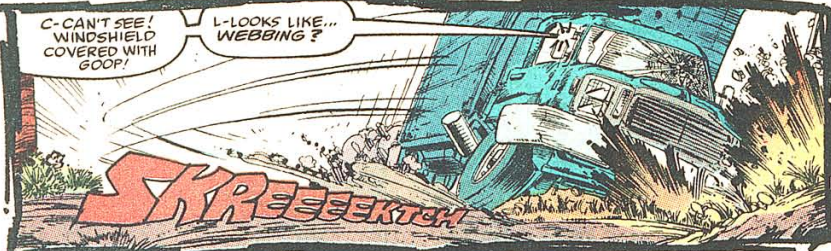
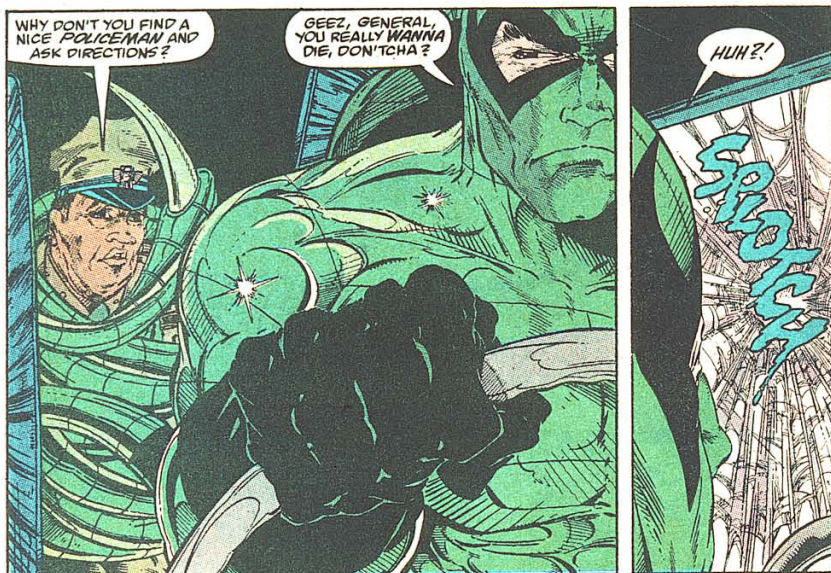




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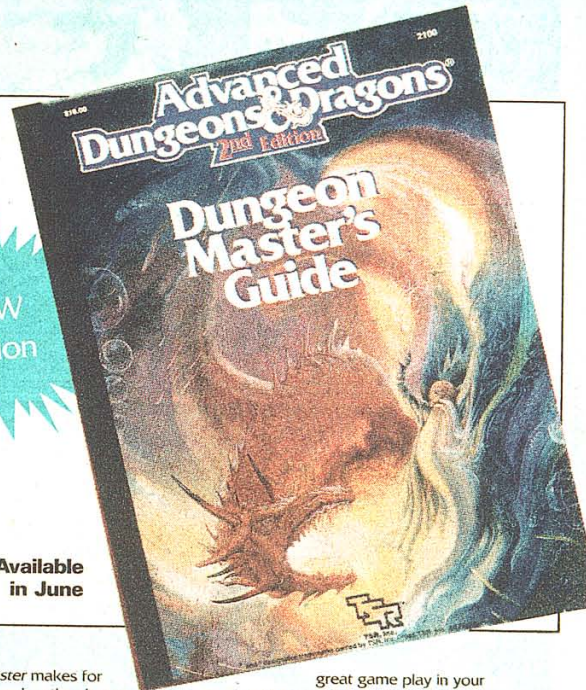
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TRUE LEADERS GO BY THE BOOK



Available
in June

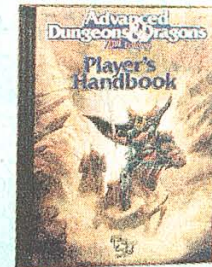


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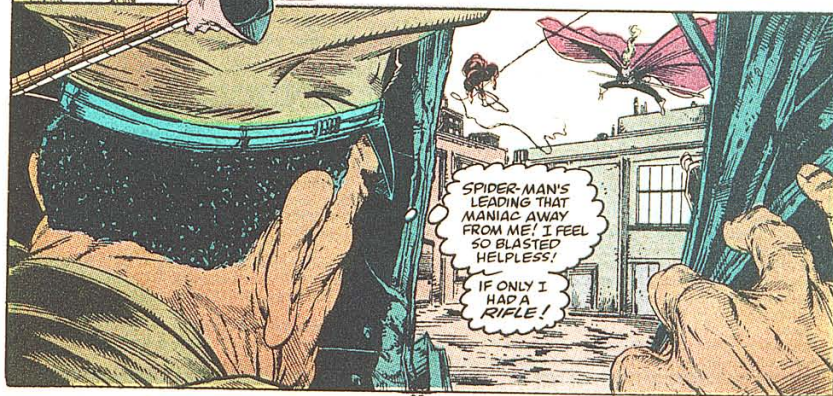
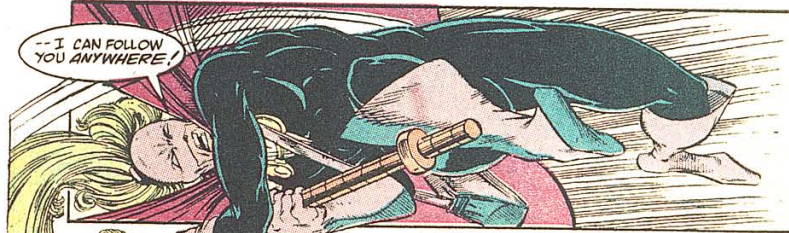
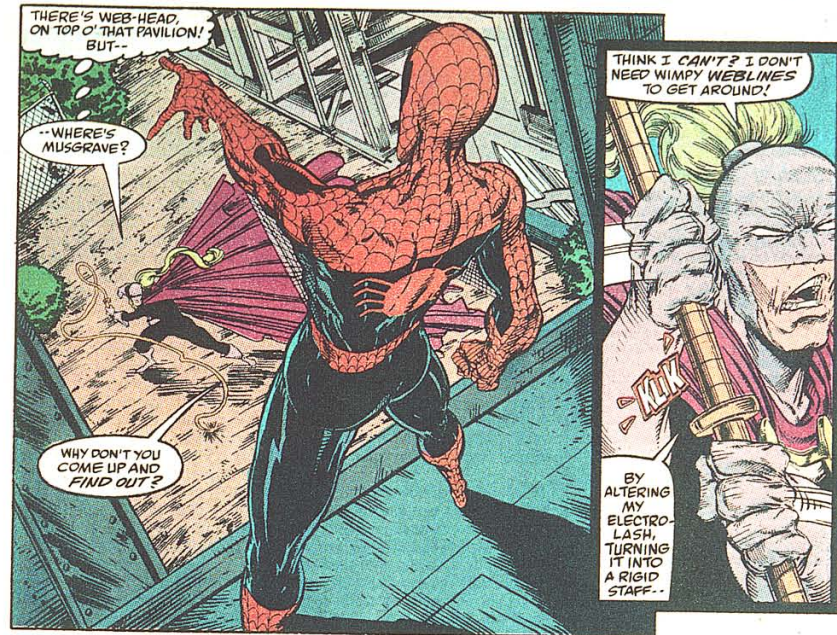
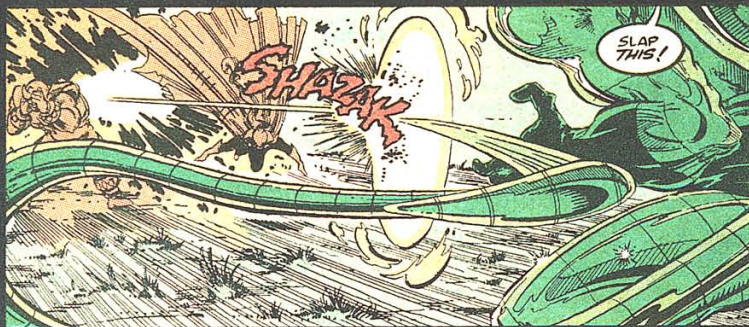
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Bulpen Bulletins

Stan's Soapbox

Hi, True Believers! The time hath come for a little soul-searching as we tackle a subject that concerns us all.

Years ago, some peeps looked down their noses at those who created or read comic books. Comics were thought of in the same light as we think of fast foods today. They were perceived as light entertainment with no real nourishment.

Even today, I'll occasionally hear someone give comics a bad rap, usually someone who hasn't read them in years. Well, in case you encounter the same type of comments, here's a little something you can run past your critic...

What are comics? They're stories, told in words and pictures. Are some not as well-written as others? Perhaps. There are also novels, plays and movies which aren't as well-written as others. But are some comic books written with great skill and integrity? Of course. Are some beautifully illustrated? Just take a look! Are they worthwhile? Bet on it! Since when has the written word coupled with illustration not been worthwhile?

Now, here's the clincher. Let's say Michaelangelo and Shakespeare are alive today and collaborate on a comic book. People would fight for a copy, right? Obviously, there's nothing wrong with telling a story using script and illustration. Just as with any other art form, everything depends on doing it well.

At Marvel, we try to do it well.
Excelsior!

Stan

Pro File: Kelly P. Corvese



Assistant Editor on: CONAN THE BARBARIAN, CONAN THE KING, PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL, THE NAM, THE JOB, and TRANSFORMERS
Marvel freelance credits (past): Editing the SPEEDBALL letters page (collect them all), typing numerous PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL scripts for Carl Potts.
Marvel freelance credits (present): Can I get back to you on this one?
My place of birth is: Providence, Rhode Island.
People who knew me in high school thought I was: My brother Jody.

Quote of the Month

"Just in time! I couldn't have taken another panel of this unrequited love bull!"

-Rumao
POWER PACHYDERMS #1

ITEM: We Marvelites just can't sit still! Case in point: just last month in this space we told you about our brand-spanking-new Editorial Administration Pool members. Well, Mystical Marie Javins has gone and gotten promoted since then! Yup, the upwardly mobile Ms. J is now Marvelous Margaret Clark's assistant editor! Congrats, Marie!

Filling the void is Delightful Dawn Heermance, who will serve as secretary to Magnanimous Mark Gruenwald and Adventurous Archie Goodwin. Welcome, Dawn!

ITEM: And speaking of mobility, things have been kind of crazy--okay, especially crazy--here at Mighty Marvel the past few weeks. We've been playing that madcap corporate game known as "Musical Offices"! Ready to play, kids?

Margaret Clark moved to Carl Potts's office, who moved to Archie Goodwin's office, who

moved to Sid Jacobson's office, who moved to Don Perlin's office, found himself and his art-correcting Raiders way off in the southwest corner of the 10th floor, next to John Romita Sr., who switched offices with Bobbie Chasal Whew!

If you think that sounds confusing, True Believer, you're right! In fact, if we had a nickel for every time someone went to the wrong office around here, we could probably afford to send out our comics for free!

ITEM: The Marvel family got a little bigger recently, as MOON KNIGHT penciler Sal Velluto and his wife Sharon welcomed their first child into this big, brassy world; Alexander Mario Velluto was born March 28. Congratulations to the new parents, and a hearty hello to Alexander, the lucky little devil! After all, how many kids can say, "My dad works for Marvel Comics"?

My hobbies are: Working out (I bench press way more than bulpenner Harry Candelario), jogging, playing with Domino my cat, reading all kinds of novels, and drawing all the time.

My pet peeves are: People with minks (I'll get one), compressed air cans when manned by Dwight Coye, all the extra furniture that Don packs in our office, and Lynda Evans's hair.

My favorite performers are: Tom Hanks, Glenn Close, Bette Midler, 'Jane' the Monitor, Tracy Ullman, the entire cast of *Lost in Space*, my brother Perry as the entire cast of *Lost in Space*, and of course Lindsay Wagner.

The last good books I read were: *I Was a Teenage Couch Potato* by Steven Scott Wilson, and *Do-It-Yourself Home Repairs* by John Steinmetz.

The last good movie I saw was: In a crowded theater, with a butter-soaked floor, and some guy behind me passed out. I think he was diabetic.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Me! I've been studying the part for years.

My oddest habit is: *Days of Our Lives*, *General Hospital*, *Dynasty*...

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Graduating from the Swedish Institute and passing the New York state boards for a license in massage therapy.

The reason I got into comics was: Something about re-shaping the minds and ideas of our nation's youth to ensure future prosperity. (And I wanted to bump Jim DiGiovanna's™ Pro File off the Bulpen Bulletins page!)

The biggest influences on my work include: Klaus Janson, George Perez, Christopher Ivy, Tom DeFalco, Don Daley, and my dad.

The single work of which I am most proud is: My lovely wife Catherine and our two children, Anthony (2) and Elizabeth (1)...Just seeing if you were paying attention.)

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: Going to be fulfilled. The worst part of my job is: Always missing lunch with Chris I., Chris A., and Mindy. When nobody's looking I like to: Talk in sign language, but no one seems to hear me.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I've always believed you can have anything in life as long as you want it badly enough and work hard enough to get it.

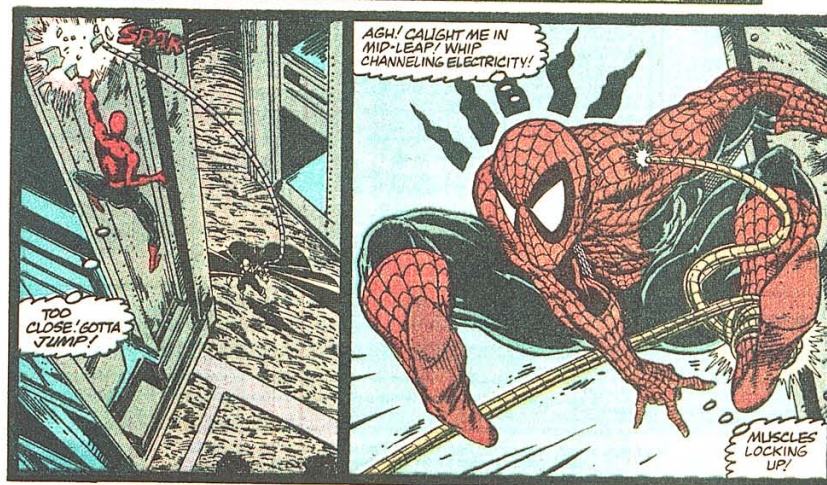
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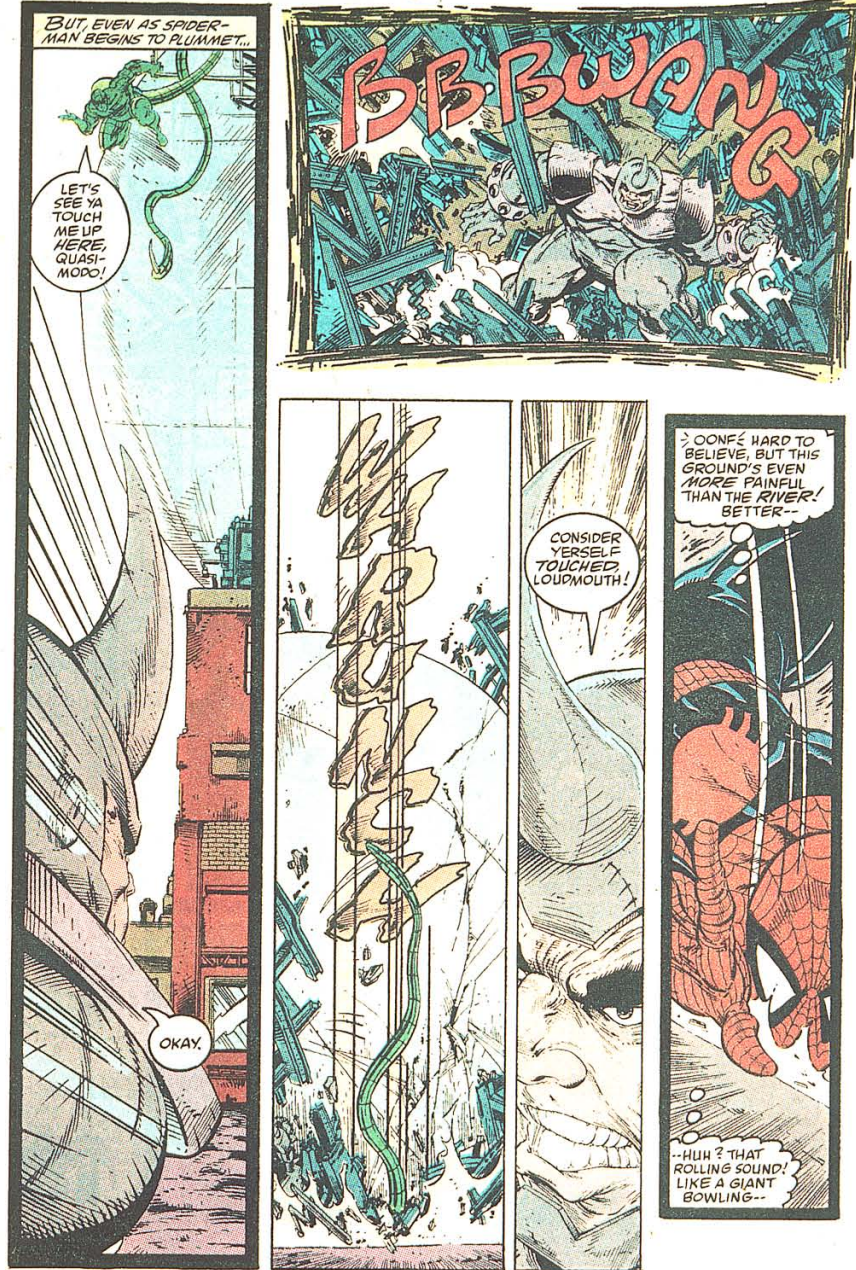
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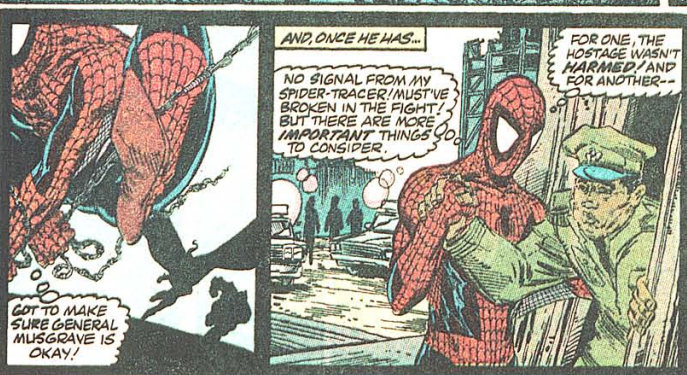
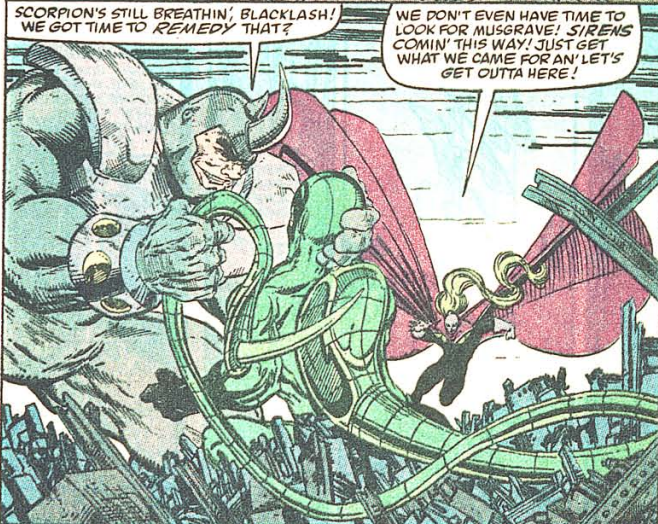
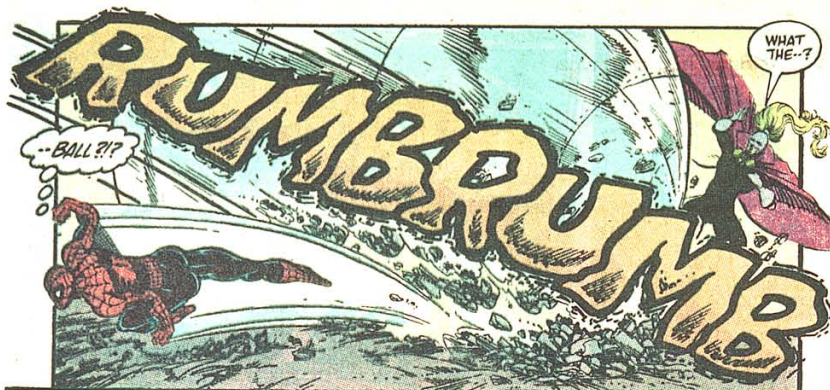
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JIM SALICRUP
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear David, Todd, and Jim,

Gee, I don't know who has it worse with this new biweekly schedule, you or me. Sure, it's costing me a mint to keep up with comics nowadays, but you guys must be exhausted. Give yourself a raise out of petty cash, hear?

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #310 was yet another exemplary issue in the new Spider-Man Renaissance. In my opinion, only two writers now working at Marvel can accurately portray the way Spider-Man should be. Those men are David Michelinie and Peter David. While I still miss ol' Stan, you gentlemen have filled his shoes admirably.

As for the art, Spidey hasn't looked so Ditkoish in years! Kudos to Mr. McFarlane! However, I was surprised to discover that Todd managed to draw all of issue #310 without sneaking in one single appearance of Felix the Cat!

Things I'd like to see: a guest shot by the She-Hulk would be nice just to see Todd's rendition. Yowza!! A new Jackal would also be welcome, as would the return of the Juggernaut. Heck, the way Todd can make poor villains great, I wouldn't even mind seeing the return of Doctor Octopus (but only once).

Things I don't want to see: any more kidnappings, assaults, threats, etc., to Mary Jane. Leave the poor woman alone, for Pete's sake! I'm surprised she hasn't already divorced Peter because of the stress. Also, don't rush to bring back the Puma. I like him right where he is, in character limbo.

Scott Tipton
2306 McGinley Ave.
Antioch, CA 94509

"For Pete's sake?" Was that a pun, Scott? Don't worry, MJ will be having enough problems in the near future without having to worry about kidnappings and the like. Sorry, but the Puma is staging a big comeback in this month's issue of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. As for the She-Hulk, look for her in THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL on sale right now. Although Todd didn't draw it, we think you'll be pleasantly surprised by Rob Liefeld's rendition.

Dear person who answers these letters,

SPIDER-MAN is back to monthly? Bummer. I was really getting into SPIDER-MAN biweekly.

One thing I really enjoyed about the biweekly run was the consistency of Todd McFarlane's art. I noticed in the X-MEN Marc Silvestri's occasional lapse in quality, but that didn't happen with McFarlane.

Y'know, I haven't enjoyed reading SPIDER-MAN so much since the good ol' days of Len Wein and Ross Andru. Point of interest: I learned to read through SPIDER-MAN. It's true! Thanks to Spidey, I've become a very literate adult.

Reading SPIDER-MAN is fun once again. McFarlane's art is lively and dynamic (and he keeps Mary Jane from looking perpetually in the '60s). David Michelinie's writing fits the mood of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I've taken quite a liking to his writing. He and Bob Layton make a fantastic team on IRON MAN.

It seems that Michelinie is bringing back all the baddies from Spidey's past just for Todd to render. I don't mind at all. I'm looking forward to Todd's rendition of Mysterio. With his funky blue smoke and his over-sized flowing cape à la McFarlane, he ought to be real... well, mysterious.

Thanks for making Spidey a blast again.

Mike Bailey
3 Cuning Point Road
Falmouth, MA 02540

Guess what, Mike? AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is once again being published biweekly for the summer! That's right, you can stop by your local comic store in two weeks to pick up the first part of the "Assassin Nation Plot" which will run through all six biweekly issues of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

Dear Jim,

I'm heartily in favor of the direction you guys are going with the characterization of Mary Jane Watson-Parker. Her self-sufficiency and courage in issue #309 were refreshing, especially when juxtaposed against the sex-object elements inherent in her modeling career.

The scene on page 18 of issue #310 was considerable. I got the impression that MJ and Peter each understand and respect what the other is all about, and that they have each defined and accepted their relationship.

Don't get me wrong. I like Todd's adventures in cheesecake as much as anybody. Maybe more than anybody. But I do hope that you continue to develop Mary Jane. She has already shown that a woman in the Marvel Universe doesn't need super powers to be extraordinary.

Gary Battershell
Route 2, Box 277
Harrison, AR 72601

It's good to know that you are an intelligent, perspicacious man, Gary, but that you're also a healthy, red-blooded American boy at heart.

Dear Jim,

I know I'm not the first to say this, but since I'm writing I feel obligated: Todd McFarlane's art style is incredible! Are the days of the six-panel page behind us? I hope so.

Before I start on issue #311, I should say that the book has been fantastic for the last year. It is clearly the class of the three Spider-Man titles. The old villains are returning, and I'm looking forward to their appearances. In #311, we got a glimpse of Todd's Green Goblin. He looks truly maniacal. I can't wait to see his version of the Lizard.

I was happy to see Mysterio back in this issue, but I was disappointed to see him get such short shrift. As one of the finest villains in Spidey history, I expect him to appear with a master plan. I certainly don't expect him to be wiped out in a mere five pages. Bring him back and make him more competent!

Mike Cullen
1116 Mayberry Place
Raleigh, NC 27609

Didja catch Mysterio's appearance (along with a certain web-head) in THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK #3, Mike? Oh, did you say "competent?"

Dear everyone responsible for AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #311,

Take a bow! When I read the first couple of pages I noticed the story was fast-paced, and I thought to myself, "Uh-oh, this is going to be another one of those mindless 'hack-n-slash' issues."

Needless to say, when I finished the ish, I was not only impressed, but very embarrassed. The story slowed down around the fourth page and then continued to give us an in-depth look at the responsibilities Peter thinks he has to live up to. The biggest thing that impressed me, though, was MJ's logic when she helped Peter through that man's (faked) death. It was important for Peter to see that he wasn't the only one in the world who acts instinctively. Peter has been Spider-Man for so long that he's not used to having people help him.

But once Mary Jane gave him that advice, it struck me as something Uncle Ben might have said. Let's face it, we've only seen Uncle Ben a few times, but his spirit is always present. It's there every time Peter dons the red-and-blues. And it will always be issues like this one that will continue to make Peter Parker, Mary Jane, Spider-Man, and Uncle Ben heroes in our hearts and minds.

Chris Nelson
(Address withheld by request)

Amen.

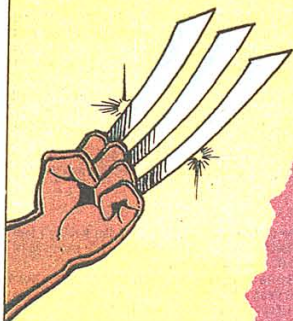
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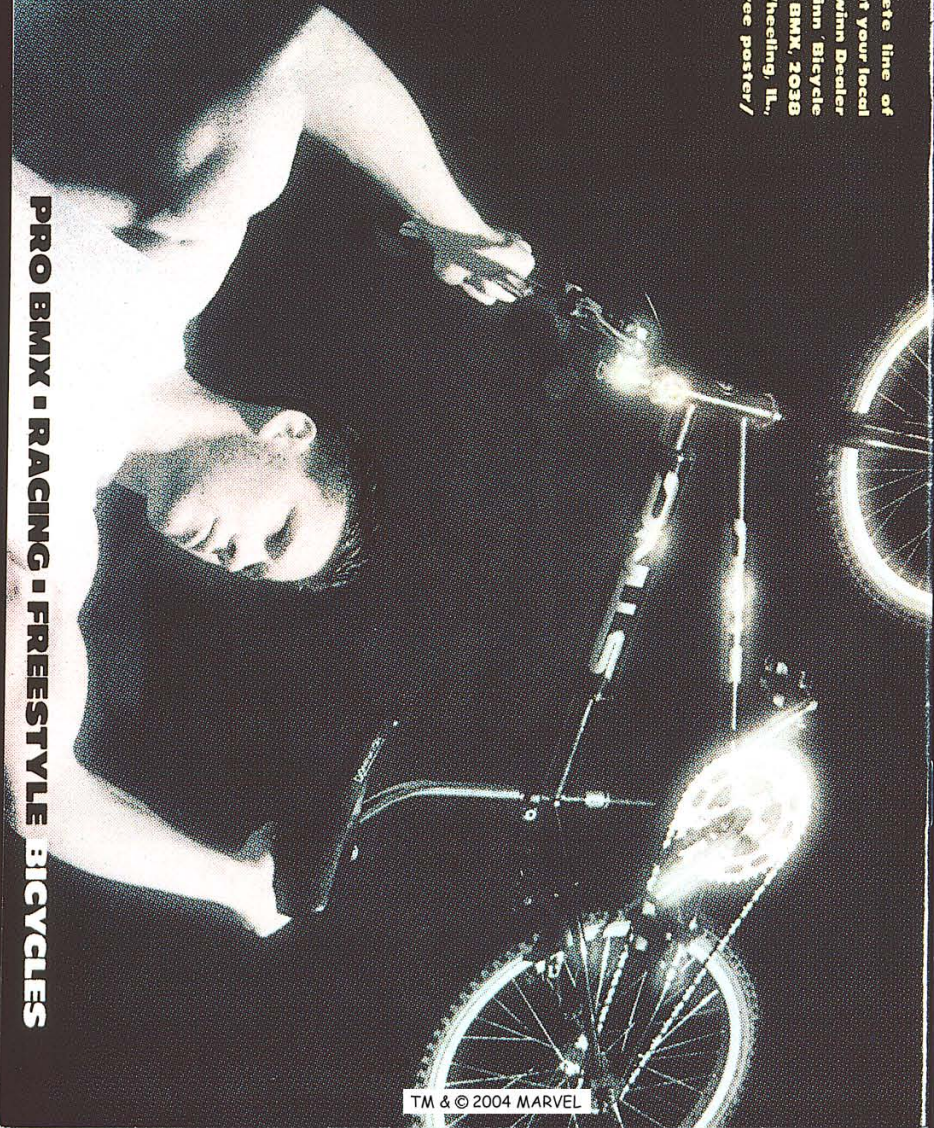
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